

# FER

It had a large succulent milky root: the stalks are spongy, and filled with pith: the flowers consist of many leaves, expanded in form of a rose, growing in an umbel: each flower is succeeded by two large oval-shaped flat seeds, which are very thin, and turn black when ripe: the leaves are like those of fennel. *Miller.*

**FERNY.** *adj.* [from *fer.*]  
1. Marthy; boggy; moorish.  
Driving in of piles is used for stone or brick houses, and that only where the ground proves *fenny* or moorish. *Moxon.*  
The hungry crocodile, and hissing snake,  
Lurk in the trouble'd stream and *fenny* brake. *Prior.*  
2. Inhabiting the marsh.  
Fillet of a *fenny* snake,  
In the caudron boil and bake. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
**FERNYSTONES.** *n. f.* A plant.  
**FENSUCKED.** *adj.* [from *fer.* and *suck.*] Sucked out of marshes.  
Infest her beauty,  
You *fensuck'd* fogs, drawn by the pow'rful fun. *Sh. K. Lear.*  
**FEOD.** *n. f.* [from *feodum*, low Latin.] Fee; tenure.  
**FEODAL.** *adj.* [from *feodum*, French, from *feod.*] Held from another.  
**FEODARY.** *n. f.* [from *feodum*, Latin.] One who holds his estate under the tenure of fuit and service to a superior lord.  
**TO FEOFF.** *v. a.* [from *feoff*, French; *feoffare*, low Latin.] To put in possession; to invest with right.  
**FEOFFEE.** *n. f.* [from *feoffatus*, Latin; *feoffe*, French.] One put in possession.  
The late earl of Desmond, before his breaking forth into rebellion, conveyed secretly all his lands to *feoffee* in trust, in hope to have cut off her majesty from the estate of his lands. *Spenser's State of Ireland.*  
**FEOFFER.** *n. f.* [from *feoffator*, low Latin.] One who gives possession of any thing. See **FEOFFMENT.**  
**FEOFFMENT.** *n. f.* [from *feoffamentum*, Latin.] The act of granting possession.  
Any gift or grant of any honours, castles, lands, or other immoveable things, to another in fee-simple, that is, to him and his heirs for ever, by the delivery of seisin of the thing given: when it is in writing, it is called a deed of *feoffment*; and in every *feoffment* the giver is called the *feoffor*, *feoffator*, and he that receiveth by virtue thereof the *feoffee*, *feoffatus*. The proper difference between a *feoffor* and a donor is, that the *feoffor* gives in fee-simple, the donor in fee-tail. *Covel.*  
The act of parliament cut off and frustrated all such conveyances as had, by the space of twelve years before his rebellion, been made; within the compass whereof the fraudulent *feoffment* of others, his accomplices and fellow-traitors, were contained. *Spenser's State of Ireland.*  
**FERACITY.** *n. f.* [from *feracitas*, Lat.] Fruitfulness; fertility. *Diſt.*  
**FERAL.** *adj.* [from *feralis*, Latin.] Funereal; mournful; deadly.  
**FERIATION.** *n. f.* [from *feriatio*, Lat.] The act of keeping holiday; cessation from work.  
As though there were any *feriation* in nature, this season is commonly termed the physicians vacation. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*  
**FERINE.** *adj.* [from *ferinus*, Latin.] Wild; savage.  
The only difficulty that remains is touching those *ferine*, noxious, and untameable beasts; as lions, tigers, wolves and bears. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*  
**FERINENESS.** *n. f.* [from *ferine*.] Barbarity; savageness; wildness.  
A *ferine* and necessitous kind of life, a conversation with those that were fallen into a barbarous habit of life, would assimilate the next generation to barbarism and *ferineness*. *Hale.*  
**FERITY.** *n. f.* [from *feritas*, Latin.] Barbarity; cruelty; wildness; savageness.  
He reduced him from the most abject and stupid *ferity* to his senses, and to sober reason. *Woodward's Natural History.*  
**TO FERMENT.** *v. a.* [from *fermento*, Latin; *fermenter*, French.] To exalt or rarify by intestine motion of parts.  
Ye vigorous swains! while youth *ferments* your blood,  
And purer spirits swell the sprightly flood,  
Now range the hills, the thickest woods beset,  
Wind the thrill horn, or spread the waving net. *Pope.*  
**TO FERMENT.** *v. n.* To have the parts put into intestine motion.  
**FERMENT.** *n. f.* [from *ferment*, French; *fermentum*, Latin.]  
1. That which causes intestine motion.  
The fomen puts females into a fever, upon impregnation; and all animal humours which poison, are putrefying *ferments*. *Floyer on the Humours.*  
Subdue and cool the *ferment* of desire. *Rogers's Sermons.*  
2. The intestine motion; tumult.  
**FERMENTABLE.** *adj.* [from *ferment.*] Capable of fermentation.  
**FERMENTAL.** *adj.* [from *ferment.*] Having the power to cause fermentation.  
Cucumbers, being waterish, fill the veins with crude and windy ferocities, that contain little salt or spirit, and debilitate the vital acidity and *fermental* faculty of the stomach. *Br. von.*  
**FERMENTATION.** *n. f.* [from *fermentatio*, Latin.] A slow

# FER

motion of the intestine particles of a mixt body, arising usually from the operation of some active acid matter, which rarifies, exhals, and subtilizes the soft and sulphureous particles: as when leaven or yeast rarifies, lightens, and ferments bread or wort, &c. And this motion differs much from that usually called ebullition or effervescence, which is a violent boiling and struggling between an acid and an alkali, when mixed together. *Harris.*  
The juice of grapes, after fermentation, will yield a *spiritus ardens*. *Boyle.*  
A man, by tumbling his thoughts, and forming them into expressions, gives them a new kind of fermentation; which works them into a finer body, and makes them much clearer than they were before. *Collier of Friendship.*  
The sap, in fluent dance,  
And lively fermentation, mountings, spreads  
All this innumerable colour'd scene of things. *Thomson.*  
**FERMENTATIVE.** *adj.* [from *ferment.*] Causing fermentation; having the power to cause fermentation.  
Aromatic spirits destroy their fermentative heat. *Arbutn.*  
**FERN.** *n. f.* [from *ferum*, Saxon.] A plant.  
The male *fern* is common on the stumps of trees in woods, and on the banks of ditches: the leaves are formed of a number of small pinnules, dentated on the edges, and set close by one another on slender ribs. On the back of these pinnules are produced the seeds, small and extremely numerous. Decoctions of the root and diet-drinks have been used in chronick disorders and obstructions. The country people esteem it a sovereign remedy for the rickets in children. *Hill.*  
Black was the forest, thick with beech it stood,  
Horrid with *ferns*, and intricate with thorn;  
Few paths of human feet or tracks of beasts were worn. *Dryden's Æneid.*  
There are great varieties of *fern* in different parts of the world; but they are seldom cultivated in gardens. *Miller.*  
**FERNY.** *adj.* [from *ferum*.] Overgrown with fern.  
The herd suffic'd, did late repair  
To *ferny* heaths, and to their forest-lare. *Dryden.*  
**FEROCIOUS.** *adj.* [from *ferox*, Latin; *feroce*, French.]  
1. Savage; fierce.  
2. Ravenous; rapacious.  
The hare, that becometh a prey unto man, unto beasts and fowls of the air, is fruitful even unto superfecundation; but the lion and *ferocious* animal hath young ones but seldom, and but one at a time. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii. c. 16.*  
Smedley rose in majesty of mud;  
Shaking the horrors of his ample brows,  
And each *ferocious* feature grim with ooze: *Pope's Dunciad, b. ii.*  
**FEROCITY.** *n. f.* [from *ferocitas*, Lat. *ferocitè*, Fr. from *ferocious*.] Savageness; wildness; fierceness.  
An uncommon *ferocity* in my countenance, with the remarkable flatness of my nose, and extent of my mouth, have procured me the name of lion. *Addison's Guardian.*  
Untaught, uncultivated, as they were  
Inhospitable, full of *ferocity*. *Phillips's Briton.*  
**FERREOUS.** *adj.* [from *ferreus*, Latin.] Irony; of iron.  
In the body of glass there is no *ferreous* or magnetic nature. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii. c. 3.*  
**FERRET.** *n. f.* [from *ferax*, Welsh; *feret*, French; *ferret*, Dutch; *viverra*, Lat.]  
1. A kind of rat with red eyes and a long snout, used to catch rabbits.  
With what an eager earnestness he looked, having threatening not only in her *ferret* eyes, but while she spoke her nose seemed to threaten her chin. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
Cicero  
Looks with such *ferret* and such fiery eyes,  
As we have seen him. *Shakespeare's Julius Cæsar.*  
Conies are destroyed or taken either by *ferrets* or pursenets. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
2. A kind of narrow ribband.  
**TO FERRET.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To drive out of lurking places, as the ferret drives the coney.  
The archbishop had *ferreted* him out of all his holds. *Heylin.*  
**FERRETER.** *n. f.* [from *ferret*.] One that hunts another in his privacies.  
**FERRIAGE.** *n. f.* [from *ferry*.] The fare paid at a ferry.  
**FERRUGINOUS.** *adj.* [from *ferrugineus*, Fr. *ferrugineus*, Latin.] Partaking of the particles and qualities of iron.  
They are cold, hot, purgative, diuretick, *ferruginous*, saline, petrifying and bituminous. *Ray on the Creation.*  
**FERRULE.** *n. f.* [from *ferum*, iron, Latin.] An iron ring put round any thing to keep it from cracking.  
The fingers ends are strengthened with nails, as we fortify the ends of our flaves or forks with iron hoops or *ferrules*. *Ray.*  
**TO FERRY.** *v. a.* [from *ferry*, Saxon; *fahr*, German, a passage. *Skinner* imagines that this whole family of words may be deduced from the Latin *veho*. I do not love Latin originals; but if such must be sought, may not these words be more naturally derived from *ferri*, to be carried?] To carry over in a boat.  
Cymocles

# FER

Cymocles heard and saw,  
He loudly call'd to such as were aboard,  
The little bark unto the shore to draw,  
And him to *ferry* over that deep ford. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*  
**TO FERRY.** *v. n.* To pass over water in a vessel of carriage.  
Thence hurried back to fire,  
They *ferry* over this Lethæan fount  
Both to and fro, their sorrow to augment. *Milt. Par. Lost.*  
**FERRY.** *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. A vessel of carriage; a vessel in which goods or passengers are carried over water.  
By this time was the worthy Guyon brought  
Unto the other side of that wide strand,  
Where he was rowing, and for passage sought:  
Him needed not long call, the soon to hand  
Her *ferry* brought. *Fairy Queen, b. ii. cant. 6.*  
There went a *ferryboat* to carry over the king's household.  
2. Sa. xix. 18.  
Bring them with imagin'd speed  
Unto the Traject, to the common *ferry*  
Which trades to Venice. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*  
I went down to the river Brent in the ordinary *ferry*. *Addison.*  
2. The passage over which the ferryboat passes.  
**FERRYMAN.** *n. f.* [from *ferry* and *man*.] One who keeps a ferry; one who for hire transports goods and passengers over the water.  
I past, methought, the melancholy flood,  
With that grim *ferryman*, which poets write of,  
Unto the kingdom of perpetual night. *Shakespeare's Richard III.*  
The common *ferryman* of Egypt, that waded over the dead bodies from Memphis, was made by the Greeks the *ferryman* of hell, and solemn stories raised after him. *Brown.*  
The grilly *ferryman* of hell deny'd  
Æneas entrance, 'till he knew his guide. *Roscommon.*  
**FERT.** or **forth.** Common terminations are the same as in English an army; coming from the Saxon word *fyrd*. *Gibson.*  
**FERTILE.** *adj.* [from *fertile*, French; *fertilis*, Latin.]  
1. Fruitful; abundant; plenteous.  
I had hope of France,  
As firmly as I hope for fertile England. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*  
I have had a large, a fair, and a pleasant field; so *fertile*, that it has given me two harvests in a summer. *Dryden.*  
I ask whether in the uncultivated waste of America, left to nature, without any improvement, a thousand acres yield the needy inhabitants as many conveniences of life as ten acres of equally *fertile* land do in Devonshire? *Locke.*  
View the wide earth adorn'd with hills and woods,  
Rich in her herds, and fertile by her floods. *Blacken. Great.*  
2. With of before the thing produced.  
The earth is *fertile* of all kind of grain. *Camden's Remains.*  
This happy country is extremely *fertile*, as of those above, so likewise of its productions under ground. *Woodward.*  
**FERTILENESS.** *n. f.* [from *fertile*.] Fruitfulness; fecundity.  
**TO FERTILIZE.** *v. a.* [from *fertile*.] To fecundate; to fertilize; to make fruitful or productive.  
A cock will in one day fertilize the whole racemation or cluster of eggs, which are not excluded in many weeks after. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*  
**FERTILITY.** *n. f.* [from *fertilitas*, Latin.] Fecundity; abundance; fruitfulness; plenteousness.  
I will go root away  
The noisom weeds, that without profit suck  
The soil's fertility from wholesome flowers. *Shakespeare's Rich. II.*  
Paradise itself exceeded in beauty and fertility; and these places had but a resemblance thereof. *Raleigh's History.*  
To inundations Egypt, through which the Nile flows, and the Indies owe their extraordinary fertility, and those mighty crops they produce after these waters are withdrawn. *Woodward.*  
**TO FERTILIZE.** *v. a.* [from *fertile*, French.] To make fruitful; to make plenteous; to make productive; to fecundate.  
Rain-water carries along with it a sort of terrestrial matter that fertilizes the land, as being proper for the formation of vegetables. *Woodward's Natural History.*  
**FERTILY.** *adv.* [from *fertile*.] Fruitfully; plenteously; plentifully; abundantly.  
**FERVENCY.** *n. f.* [from *ferveo*, Latin.]  
1. Heat of mind; ardour; eagerness.  
Your diver  
Did hang a saltfish on his hook, which he  
With *fervency* drew up. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
2. Pious ardour; flame of devotion; zeal.  
We have on all sides lost much of our first *fervency* towards God.  
There must be zeal and *fervency* in him which propoeth for the rest those suits and supplications, which they by their joyful exclamations must ratify. *Hooker's Dedication.*  
When you pray, let it be with attention, with *fervency*, and with perseverance. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*  
**FERVENT.** *adj.* [from *ferveo*, Latin; *fervent*, French.]  
1. Hot; boiling.  
From the phlegmatick humour, the proper ally of *fervent* blood, will flow a future quietude and serenity. *Watson.*

# FES

2. Hot in temper; vehement.  
They that are more *fervent* to dispute, be not always the most able to determine. *Hooker, b. iv. f. 14.*  
3. Ardent in piety; warm in zeal; flaming with devotion.  
This man being *fervent* in the spirit, taught diligently the things of the Lord. *Acts xviii. 25.*  
So spake the *fervent* angel; but his zeal  
None seconded as out of season judg'd,  
Or singular and rash. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. v.*  
Let all enquiries into the mysterious points of theology be carried on with *fervent* petitions to God, that he would dispose their minds to direct all their skill to the promotion of a good life. *South's Sermons.*  
**FERVENTLY.** *adv.* [from *fervent*.]  
1. Eagerly; vehemently.  
They all that charge did *fervently* apply,  
With greedy malice and importune toil. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*  
2. With pious ardour; with holy zeal.  
Epaphras saluteth you, labouring *fervently* for you in prayers. *Col. iv. 12.*  
He cares not how or what he suffers, so he suffer well, and be the friend of Christ; nor where nor when he suffers, so he may do it frequently, *fervently*, and acceptably. *Taylor.*  
**FERVID.** *adj.* [from *fervidus*, Latin.]  
1. Hot; burning; boiling.  
2. Vehement; eager; zealous.  
**FERVIDITY.** *n. f.* [from *fervid*.]  
1. Heat.  
2. Zeal; passion; ardour. *Diſt.*  
**FERVIDNESS.** *n. f.* [from *fervid*.] Ardour of mind; zeal; passion.  
As to the healing of Malchus's ear, in the act of the meek lamb of God, it was a kind of injury done to him by the *fervidness* of St. Peter, who knew not yet what spirit he was of. *Bentley's Sermons.*  
**FERULA.** *n. f.* [from *ferula*, Fr. from *ferula*, giant fennel, Lat.] An instrument of correction with which young scholars are beaten on the hand: so named because anciently the stalks of fennel were used for this purpose.  
These differ as much as the rod and *ferula*. *Shaw's Grammar.*  
**TO FERULE.** *v. a.* To chastise with the ferula.  
**FERVOUR.** *n. f.* [from *ferveo*, Latin; *ferveur*, French.]  
1. Heat; warmth.  
Were it an undeniable truth that an effectual *ferveur* proceeded from this star, yet would not the same determine the opinion. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iv.*  
Like bright Aurora, whose refulgent ray  
Foretells the *ferveur* of ensuing day,  
And warns the shepherd with his flocks retreat  
To leafy shadows, from the threatned heat. *Waller.*  
These silver drops, like morning dew,  
Foretell the *ferveur* of the day;  
So from one cloud soft flow'rs we view,  
And blissing lightnings burst away. *Pope.*  
2. Heat of mind; zeal; ardour of devotion.  
Oulous it must needs have been to abolish that which all had held for the space of many ages, without reason so great as might in the eyes of impartial men appear sufficient to clear them from all blame of rash proceedings, if in *ferveur* of zeal they had removed such things. *Hooker, b. iv. f. 14.*  
Haply despair hath seiz'd her;  
Or, wing'd with *ferveur* of her love, she's flown  
To her desired Polihumus. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*  
There will be at Loretto, in a few ages more, jewels of the greatest value in Europe, if the devotion of its princes continues in its present *ferveur*. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*  
**FESQUE.** *n. f.* [from *fesque*, Dutch; *festa*, French.] A small wire by which those who teach to read point out the letters.  
Teach him an alphabet upon his fingers, making the points of his fingers of his left hand both on the inside to signify some letter, when any of them is pointed at by the forefinger of the right hand, or by any kind of *fesque*. *Holder.*  
Teach them how manly passions ought to move;  
For such as cannot think, can never love;  
And since they needs will judge the poet's art,  
Point 'em with *fesques* to each thining part. *Dryden.*  
**FESSEL.** *n. f.* A kind of bafe grain.  
Disdain not *fesels* or poor vech to sow,  
Or care to make Egyptian lentils thrive. *May's Ving. Georg.*  
**FESSE.** *n. f.* [in heraldry.]  
The *fesse* is so called of the Latin word *fascia*, a band or girdle, possessing the third part of the escutcheon over the middle: if there be above one, you must call them bars; if with the field there be odd pieces, as seven or nine, then you must name the field, and say to many bars; if even, as six, eight, or ten, you must say barwife, or barry of six, eight, or ten, as the king of Hungary bears argent and gules barry of eight. *Pea-ham on Blazoning.*  
**TO FESTEER.** *v. n.* [from *fesse*, in Bavarian, a swelling corrupted, *Junius*.] To rattle; to corrupt; to grow virulent.  
I might, even in my lady's presence, discover the sore which had deeply *festered* within me. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
Flow